

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4258

S E C R E T NICOSIA 2543

EXDIS

FOR S/S AND NEA ONLY FROM HOUGHTON AND MACK

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR LE

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH GEMAYEL

REF: NICOSIA 2491

1. WE CALLED ON PIERRE GEMAYAL AT HIS MOUNTAIN HOME IN BIFKFAYA ON AUGUST 23. HE BEGAN WITH A STERN LECTURE ABOUT HOW THE USG HAD DISAPPOINTED LEBANON BY NOT RETURNING THE LOYALTY WHICH LEBANON HAD ALWAYS SHOWN TOWARD THE U.S. HE SAID THAT LEBANON HAD EXPECTED THE USG TO ARRANGE A SECURITY FACE TO HELP NEUTRALIZE THE FIVE PERCENT OF LEBANESE AND PALESTINIANS WHO WERE "SOCIALISTS, COMMUNISTS AND AGENT OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNISM". HE RETURNED AGAIN AND AGAIN TO HIS THEME THAT LEBANON'S FOES ARE A TINY MINORITY OF PALESTINIANS AND LEBANESE MUSLIMS WHOM THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR ACTIVELY COORDINATES. HE DID NOT HESITATE TO NAME NAMES -- JUMBLATT, HABASH, HOWATMEH, AND JEBRIL. HE IMPLIED THHAT A DEAL COULD BE MADE WITH ARAFAT AND THE TRADITIONAL MUSLIM LEADERS. THE PROBLEM THERE, HE SAID, WAS THAT NEITHER ARAFAT NOR ANY OF THE MUSLIM LEADERS CAN REALLY DELIVER THEIR DISUNITED CONSTITUENCIES.

2. WHEN THE USG, IN GEMAYEL'S VIEW, FAILED TO HELP THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT, THE GOL TURNED TO SYRIA. SHEIKH

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PIERRE ADMITTED THAT HE HAD ENTERTAINED DOUBTS ABOUT LETTING

THE SYRIANS IN, BUT AFTER A FOUR-HOUR TETE-A-TETE WITH ASAD HE WAS MUCH IMPRESSED BY ASAD'S SINCERITY AND OBJECTIVES. OTHER ARAB OR WESTERN FORCES, PROVIDED THEY WERE "HONEST" IN SHARING SYRIA'S COMMITMENT TO HELP THE GOL RESTORE ITS NATIONAL UNITY AND PUT THE CAIRO ACCORD INTO OPERATION, COULD ASSIST THE SYRIAN FORCES. THE SYRIANS REQUIRE U.S. ASSISTANCE TO FINISH THEIR TASK IN THE FORM OF U.S. PROTECTION FROM REACTIONS IN THE REST OF THE ARAB WORLD.

3. WE ASKED GEMAYEL ABOUT THE REPORT IN "L'ORIENT" DE JOUR" QUOTING HIS SON, AMIN, AS SAYING THAT INTERROGATIONS OF PRISONERS CAPTURED AT TEL ZAATER ESTABLISHED THE IDENTITY OF THE MURDERERS OF MELOY AND WARING. GEMAYEL SAID THIS WAS NOT TRUE. NO CONCRETE EVIDENCE HAD BEEN OBTAINED.

4. GEMAYEL EXPRESSED FIRM IDEAS ON WHICH CHRISTIAN LEADERS THE USG SHOULD DEAL WITH. THE CHRISTIAN LEADERS IN HIS VIEW ARE HIMSELF, CHAMOUN, FRANGIEH AND PERE KASSIS. WE CONCEDED THAT ONE SHOULD ADD SARKIS AND THE PATRIARCH FOR PURPOSES OF PROTOCOL. CONTACTS WITH OTHERS, HE SAID, ONLY HURTS THE FEELINGS OF THOSE WHO ARE LEFT OUT. GEMAYEL VOLUNTEERED HIMSELF AS AN ENVOY TO MEET WITH THE SECRETARY IN WASHINGTON BUT SAID HE WOULD NOT COME TO WASHINGTON FOR A MEETING AT A LOWER LEVEL.

5. SHEIKH PIERRE CONCLUDED WITH AN APPEAL TO THE USG TO DO "SOMETHING NOW. THE HOUSE IS ON FIRE AND SOMEONE MUST PUT IT OUT. OTHERWISE, LEBANON WILL BE DESTROYED."

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## Message Attributes

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